



AG DIGEST



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Highlights

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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

HONEY PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania honey production in 1999 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 1.5 million pounds, down 1 percent from 1998. There were an estimated 25,000 colonies statewide, up 2,000 from last year. The average yield was 60 pounds per colony. Average yield per colony in 1998 was 66 pounds. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 1999, were 705,000 pounds, 1 percent more than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 76 cents per pound for the 1999 crop. Total value of honey produced in 1999 is estimated at 1,140,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 23th in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 1999 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 1999.

Nationally, honey production in 1999 from producers with five or more hives totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. The yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Producer honey stocks were 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1999 U.S. honey crop averaged 59.9 cents per pound, down 8 percent from 65.5 cents in 1998. Honey prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT WAGE RATES UP 2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$7.64 per hour compared with \$7.31 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 18 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.1 hours a year ago.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF JANUARY 9-15, 2000

Item	NE II ¹	U. S.
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	27	666
Expected to be Employed		
150 Days or More . . .	24	528
149 Days or Less . . .	3	138
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	36.0	38.2
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	8.33	8.12
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	7.42	7.43
Field	7.84	7.32
Livestock	6.66	7.64

¹ NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates. ³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY 2000

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000 ¹	Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000 ¹
Dollars							
Corn	Bu.	2.53	2.62	2.55	2.05	1.90	1.96
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	-	-	-	2.55	2.32	2.42
Oats	Bu.	1.60	1.75	1.80	1.20	1.20	1.27
Barley	Bu.	-	-	-	1.90	2.05	2.14
Hay, All	Ton	116.00	138.00	138.00	79.90	71.80	72.60
Alfalfa	Ton	132.00	152.00	150.00	83.70	74.10	77.40
Other	Ton	102.00	126.00	126.00	70.10	65.90	66.70
Apples, Fresh Use . . .	Cwt.	23.00	20.00	-	15.00	23.50	21.10
Potatoes	Cwt.	9.35	7.90	8.95	5.75	5.91	5.88
Cows, Slaughter . . .	Cwt.	35.80	37.30	37.50	34.70	35.90	37.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	58.20	66.30	66.50	63.60	71.60	70.80
Calves	Cwt.	98.50	114.00	112.00	86.90	102.00	105.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	26.90	36.30	38.70	28.20	37.00	39.90
Sows	Cwt.	16.50	30.50	34.50	18.80	32.80	36.10
Turkeys ²	Lb.	.350	²	²	.357	.364	.357
Broilers ²	Lb.	.360	²	²	.366	.350	.335
Eggs ³	Doz.	.530	.490	.590	.501	.397	.523
Milk, Fluid Grade . . .	Cwt.	17.20	13.20	-	15.60	12.00	11.90
Manufactured Grade . .	Cwt.	10.40	10.20	-	12.30	10.70	10.50
All	Cwt.	17.10	13.20	13.30	15.50	12.00	11.80
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,320.00	-	-	1,330.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² State price no longer published. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 2 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 92 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the January index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These marketing changes accounted for most of the February index

increase. Higher prices for hogs, eggs, corn, and soybeans offset price decreases for lettuce, broilers, milk, and apples.

Compared with February 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1999 for milk, lettuce, oranges, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and apples.

FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE GRADUAL UPWARD TREND

The number of farms in the United States in 1999 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1998. The increase in farm numbers can be attributed to the continued rise in the number of small farms. Total land in farms, at 947.3 million acres, was down 0.7 percent or 6.2 million acres from last year. This decline in land in farms continues the historical trend of less land in farms. The average farm size decreased 3 acres from 1998 to 432 acres.

The South Region showed the largest increase in number of farms, up 2,300 or 0.2 percent. The North Central Region was the only region to decline in farm numbers during 1999. The region was down 500 farms or less than 0.1 percent from 1998.

Farm numbers during 1999 increased in 13 States, decreased in 13 States, and remained unchanged in 24 States. States with an increase of 1,000 farms were Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. States with a decrease of 1,000 farms were Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, and Pennsylvania.

Farm and ranch land declined in a total of 26 States while the remaining 24 were unchanged. Texas continues to lead the Nation with 130.5 million acres of land in farms and ranches, down 1 million acres from the previous year. Other States with significant decreases in

farmland were California (700,000 acres), Arizona and New Mexico ((600,000 acres), and Montana (500,000 acres).

NUMBER OF FARMS & LAND IN FARMS ¹

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farm
	<i>Number</i>	<i>(000) Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
<u>PENNSYLVANIA</u>			
1997	60,000	7,700	128
1998	60,000	7,700	128
1999	59,000	7,700	131
<u>UNITED STATES</u>			
1997	2,190,510	956,010	436
1998	2,191,360	953,500	435
1999	2,194,070	947,340	432

¹ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 31, 2000

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 4,538,000 bushels on January 31, 2000, compared to 3,851,000 bushels on January 31, 1999. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,320,000; Rome with 988,000; and Golden Delicious, 940,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 190,109,000 pounds on January 31, 2000, compared to 161,742,000 pounds on January 31, 1999. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 93,000 pounds to 149,000 pounds on January 31, 2000.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2000 were greater than year earlier levels for butter and chicken. January 2000 stocks of chicken, at 800 million pounds, broke the previous record January high of 717 million pounds set in 1999. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were 3 percent above December 1999, but were 7 percent below January 1999. Frozen pork stocks were 7 percent above last month, but 13 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies increased 9 percent from last month, but were 47 percent below the January 1999 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies were up 5 percent from last month and were 3 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down slightly from last month, but were 12 percent above January 1999. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 23 percent from last month, but were 14 percent below last year.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Jan 31, 1999	Dec 31, 1999	Jan 31, 2000
<i>(000) Lbs.</i>			
Butter	60,757	25,082	79,060
Cheese, Total Natural	622,437	621,261	669,157
Eggs, Frozen	11,047	10,071	12,070
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,084,769	1,061,370	1,116,102
Chicken	716,751	803,359	799,927
Turkeys	363,841	254,251	312,165
Fruits, Frozen	1,103,097	1,455,029	1,338,588
Fruit Juices, Frozen	2,425,822	1,659,450	1,905,176
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,137,081	2,279,392	2,148,750
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,219,650	1,165,389	1,130,090
Meats, Total Frozen	833,045	748,341	771,159
Beef, Total Frozen	301,095	314,162	307,571
Pork, Total Frozen	510,315	415,378	442,943

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JANUARY 2000

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COOL STORAGE, JANUARY 2000										
Variety	January 31, 1999					January 31, 2000				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	4	0	605	451	1,060	1	1	867	451	1,320
Stayman	13	26	45	0	84	16	19	56	2	93
Rome	15	80	478	314	887	19	107	563	299	988
Red Delicious	49	369	243	67	728	58	415	158	92	723
Golden Delicious	10	124	357	294	785	12	171	280	477	940
Jonathan	0	0	4	1	5	0	0	30	0	30
McIntosh	1	3	0	0	4	4	0	9	10	23
Cortland	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	4
Other ²	29	46	171	51	297	58	48	288	23	417
Total	122	648	1,903	1,178	3,851	169	761	2,254	1,354	4,538

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

**APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE,
PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, JANUARY 31, 2000**

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	January 31, 1999	December 31, 1999	January 31, 2000
<i>(1,000) Lbs.</i>			
PENNSYLVANIA			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	85,050	121,082	101,787
Controlled Atmosphere	76,692	82,489	88,922
Total Apples	161,742	203,571	190,109
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	1	1
Other Varieties	93	148	148
Total Pears	93	149	149
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	563,368	862,124	563,604
Controlled Atmosphere	3,605,641	3,790,727	3,448,067
Total Apples	4,169,009	4,652,851	4,011,671
PEARS:			
Bartletts	758	18,115	5,149
Other Varieties	235,086	281,089	233,886
Total Pears	235,844	299,204	239,035

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000	Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000
Layers	Thous.	22,701	22,720	22,739	322,326	328,824	328,578
Eggs Per 100 Layers . .	Number	2,335	2,271	2,238	2,165	2,214	2,176
Eggs Produced	Million	530	516	509	6,979	7,279	7,150
Chick Hatch-Egg Type .	Thous.	5,002	4,757	4,943	35,653	32,730	34,125
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,125	12,795	13,307	735,348	747,905	749,375
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	24,590	25,518	24,784

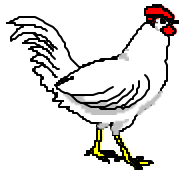
EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during January 2000 totaled 509 million eggs, down 4 percent from January 1999. The total number of layers on hand averaged 22.7 million during January, up less than 1 percent from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2238 eggs during the month, compared with 2335 eggs in January 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2000 totaled 4.94 million, 1 percent less than the 5.00 million hatched the previous January. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.3 million during January 2000, up 1 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.15 billion during January 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.98 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during January averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from January 1999. Egg production per 100 layers was 2176 eggs, up 1 percent from January 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during January totaled 34.1 million, down 4 percent from January 1999. Broiler-type hatch totaled 749 million, 2 percent more than the previous January.



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JAN 2000

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	92.6	3,785
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	77.9	2,937
	Mil. Lbs.	98.2	3,610
Calves	Thous. Hd.	13.0	93
	Mil. Lbs.	4.4	29
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	203.7	8,141
	Mil. Lbs.	49.6	2,133
Sheep &	Thous. Hd.	4.4	282
	Mil. Lbs.	.4	39
	Live		

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during January 2000 totaled 92.6 million pounds, up less than 1 percent from January 1999. Beef production, at 98.2 million pounds live weight, was down 3 percent from January 1999. Total head slaughtered was 77,900, down 1 percent and live weight averaged 1,261 pounds, a decrease of 25 pounds. Veal production was 4.4 million pounds live weight, down 7 percent. Calf slaughter of 13,000 head was down 13 percent and average live weight increased 21 pounds to 341 pounds. Hog production was 49.6 million pounds live weight, up 5 percent from 1999. Total head slaughtered was 203,700, an increase of 6.6 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 243 pounds, a decrease of 3 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 412,000 pounds live weight, down 22 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,400, down 14 percent from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 94 pounds.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
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